



#23/E
huta
4/2/03
Docket No. 54805/JPW/GJG

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Howard J. Worman and Naoto Mamiya
Serial No.: 09/407,430 Examiner: Q. Nguyen
Filed : September 29, 1999 Group Art Unit: 1632
For : HCV E2 PROTEIN BINDING AGENTS FOR TREATMENT OF
HEPATITIS C VIRUS INFECTION

1185 Avenue Of The Americas
New York, New York 10036
March 21, 2003

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Box: RCE

Sir:

RECEIVED

MAR 31 2003

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT TO THE
ACCOMPANYING REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)

Applicants request that the following amendment be made in
the above-identified application:

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 44-56 without prejudice to applicants'
right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in this
or a subsequent application.

Please add new claims 55-76 as follows:

57.
55. A method of identifying a compound which inhibits the
binding of hepatitis C virus envelope E2 protein to a
cellular protein associated with hepatitis C virus
attachment onto cells comprising:

E,
rule
1.26